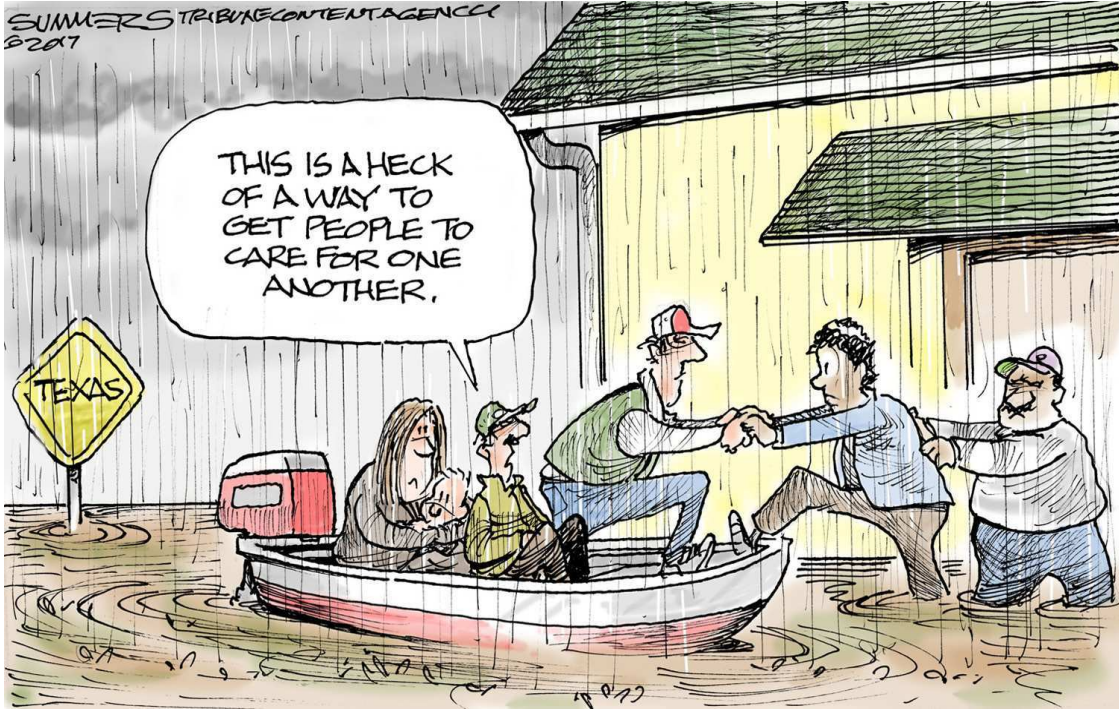


O P I N I O N



## Letters to the Editor...

The Nugget welcomes contributions from its readers, which must include the writer's name, address and phone number. Letters to the Editor is an open forum for the community and contains unsolicited opinions not necessarily shared by the Editor. The Nugget reserves the right to edit, omit, respond or ask for a response to letters submitted to the Editor. Letters should be no longer than 300 words. Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned. The deadline for all letters is noon Monday.

To the Editor:

In your August 27 article regarding school bond projects ("Work continues on school bond projects," page 1) you mentioned the consideration of a "turf" field at Reed Stadium.

I am unclear as to your meaning as "turf" refers to grass. And Reed Stadium has the best grass "turf" football field in the tri-counties. Did you mean to say that the board is considering installing an artificial turf football field? Please clarify the intent of the Sisters School Board.

Thanks.

Rob Phelps

*Editor's reply: The district has considered installation of an artificial turf playing surface, using additional funds that became available in the bond process. Discussions on that issue have been tabled.*



To the Editor:

With the new school year upon us, parents turn their attention to school clothes, school supplies, and school food. Yes, school food!

More than 31 million children rely on

school meals for their daily nutrition, which too often consists of highly processed food laden with saturated fat. Not surprisingly, one-third of our children have become overweight or obese. Their early dietary flaws become lifelong addictions, raising their risk of diabetes, heart disease, and stroke.

To compound the problem, the Trump administration has loosened Obama's 2010 school lunch rules calling for whole grains, fat-free milk, and reduced salt content. The rules had an 86 percent approval rating.

Fortunately, many U.S. school districts now offer vegetarian options. More than 120 schools, including the entire school districts of Baltimore, Boston, Buffalo, Detroit, Houston, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Oakland, Philadelphia, and San Diego have implemented Meatless Monday.

As parents, we need to involve our own children and school cafeteria managers in promoting healthy, plant-based foods in our local schools. Entering "vegan options in schools" in a search engine provides lots of useful resources.

Skyler Nash

### Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Areas of Smoke 86/46	Patchy Smoke 86/49	Areas of Smoke 92/54	Patchy Smoke 93/57	Areas of Smoke 93/56	Areas of Smoke 92/48 a

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## Jonah Goldberg

You hear it constantly these days: "This can't go on." "Something's got to give." The hope that impeachment is around the corner is an unspoken assumption in much media coverage. "Trump Is Just Six Senate Votes Away From Impeachment" blared a recent *Newsweek* headline. (News flash: He's not.)

The *Los Angeles Times* ran a forceful — and largely persuasive — editorial titled "Enough is Enough." It began, "These are not normal times," and then followed with a blistering indictment of elected Republicans who refuse to stand up and speak out about the damage the president is doing to the country and his own party.

But maybe the new abnormal is the new normal, as the last line of the piece suggests: "This is the seventh in a series."

Part of the problem is that President Trump, in terms of both his personality and his behavior, is like a magnet next to a compass, making it very difficult to get accurate bearings. Just as his candidacy was a symptom of larger forces — the triumph of entertainment culture, the breakdown in confidence in elites and their institutions, etc. — his presidency may likewise be masking more permanent changes to politics.

We won't know if things will return to "normal" until we separate the magnet and the compass. Until then, all of the proposed remedies for the problem of political chaos only promise more chaos.

Consider the departure of Stephen Bannon from the White House. Contrary to a lot of punditry, it is unlikely that the White House will become less gonzo with his absence. But it is almost surely true that the climate outside of the White House will get more absurd with Bannon back at Breitbart.com.

Bannon has boasted that he is a "Leninist." Like so much of what Bannon says, that's hyperbole, but he does share with the Soviet revolution a worldview of "the

worse, the better." Bannon believes that racial anxiety, populist fervor and widespread resentment help his cause.

It may indeed be the right thing for Republicans to stand up to Trump more. But that won't restore order either. It will infuriate the president and his biggest supporters and further split the Republican Party.

Likewise the widespread call for Republican legislators to stop voting with the president even when they agree with him. This is insane advice on the merits. Voting against Trump out of spite would be political malpractice. It would also be a gift to the Bannons and Sean Hannitys who are desperate to craft a "stabbed in the back" explanation for the president's failures.

Republicans are stuck in a Trump-22 for as far as the eye can see. They cannot afford to alienate the core Trump base by being too critical of the president, and they cannot afford to alienate the Trump-critical elements in the party by being too supportive.

There's a similar problem with the calls for mass resignations from the White House. There are still good people there. If they quit, they'll all be replaced with members of the "let Trump be Trump" school.

Meanwhile the Democrats, who have their own populist challenges, see GOP dysfunction as an excuse not to remedy their own shortcomings — many of which made Trump's victory possible.

Then there's impeachment. If Democrats win the House — a big "if" right now — they will probably get to work on impeachment hearings. If they succeeded, they'd still need roughly half of the Republicans to vote to remove him. How reserved and sober-minded would you expect the president — or his supporters — to be during that process? How about after the Senate fails to remove him?

Face it: It's gonna be weird for a very long time.

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*Opinions expressed in this column are solely those of the writer and are not necessarily shared by the Editor or The Nugget Newspaper.*